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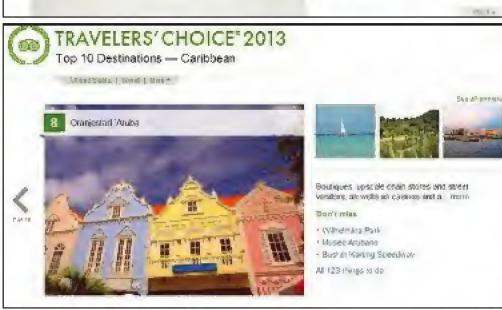
Obama: Mandela 'courageous and profoundly good'

See pg 6

Aruba wins Travelers Choice Award from Trip Advisor







ORANJESTAD -- Aruba has been awarded with prizes in several aspects of tourism

over the years. This time, Aruba's Tourism Authority is honored to share that Aruba



has been recognized by the popular travel website, Trip Advisor.

Aruba has been named not only for her beautiful beaches but also as one of the best destinations in the Caribbean region.

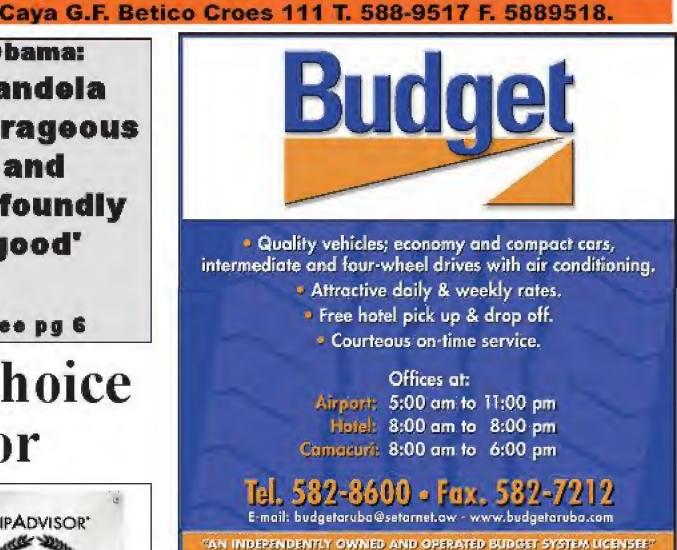
This award is based on the 125 million members who regularly visit, comment and leave reviews on the website of Trip Advisor. Aruba took the fourth spot among the 25 Best Beaches in the Caribbean of which Eagle Beach earned the preferred top spot. Among the top 10 destinations in the Caribbean, Aruba was voted number 8.

Sanju Luidens, Chief Marketing Officer of Aruba Tourism Authority received the award in the name of all those working in the tourism sector.

"With this award, it is our visitors who scores," said Saniu.

Photos show Sanju Luidens receiving the award from Trip Advisor's Brand Marketing Director Colleen Woods Heikka and the online citation from Trip Advisor members.

Aruba Tourism Authority wishes to congratulate all of Aruba and all those who contribute towards this grand achievement!



Nelson Mandela has died, Zuma tells the world



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) -Nelson Mandela, the revered icon of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and one of the towering political figures of the 20th century, has died aged 95, President Jacob Zuma said Thursday.

"He is now resting ... he is now at peace," a visibly emotional Zuma said. "Our nation has lost its greatest son."

In a sombre statement read live on television by the president, Zuma told his fellow

South Africans: "Our people have lost a father. Although we knew that this day would come, nothing can diminish our sense of a profound and enduring loss.

"His tireless struggle for freedom earned him the respect of the world.

"His humility, his compassion and his humanity earned him their love. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mandela family.

Continued on pg 6





Aruba's pension system is: "Pay as you Go"

Today's workgroup paying for today's pensions



ORANJESTAD -- Although our Old Age Pension program (AOV) was introduced way back in 1960, many are not aware of how the system functions. The government has requested SVB, which is the institution in chagre of managing the fund, to begin

an information campaign to report on the proposed changes in the fund.

AOV was founded to avoid poverty among our senior citizens. It had to become a basic financial support for our semiors. In the original plan AOV was to be complimented with a general pension for all workers which was achieved in 2012 by the Eman I administration. This means that those working today are paying for the pension of our seniors.

According to SVB director Edwin Jacobs, for the majority of our seniors, AOV is their only form of income. Instead of it becoming a support for a portion of their lost income, it has become practically their only source of income. However, he indicates that our seniors deserve to live in tranquility; hence they cannot continue in the uncertainty of what may happen to

According to both Jacobs and the ex-interim director of SVB, Herbert Diaz, the AOV fund is based on a particular formula: 1. the incomes, which depends on how many people, are working, the average salary and the premium they are paying, 2. the expenses, how many pensioners there are and how much they are paid. If this remains in balance there will be no prob-1em. But what we are seeing in the past years is that less people are entering the job market to contribute to the fund, while the group of seniors to receive pension is growing.

Not even the boom in the 90's which provided for a 200 million Florin reserve is not enough. Everyday less people are working to carry the amount of pensioners there are. We have a system of "pay as you go," there must be enough people working to pay for pensioners," according to Diaz.

In 2005 there were 11 thousand pensioners, today there are 14 thousand and the projection for 2030 is that there will be 30 thousand pensioners.

The goal of the current discussions in the National Social Dialogue with all the stakeholders is to reach a consensus to guarantee the pension in the future. To achieve this, we must reach a solution that is socially acceptable and financially viable. Togehter we can achieve this for the welfare of our community, according to the Prime Minister.

A sculpture, symbolic of our history and our community

Aruba Bank unveils an original and unique work of art by local artist Ciro Abath



HATO -- During the opening celebration of Aruba Bank's new branch in Hato on Saturday, invited guests witnessed the unveiling of a spectacular sculpture created by local artist Ciro Abath. Aruba Bank commissioned Abath to create a centerpiece, a sculpture destined to become an icon, a work of art which brings together an impressive expression of historic, cultural and communal values.

One of the elements which inspired Abath for his design was the physical location of Aruba Bank's new building. The new bank branch is located in the vicinity of the Tanki Flip dig, where archeologists discovered various artifacts which helped them gain insight into the lives of the people who resided on the island in prehistoric times.

The resulting artwork created by Abath, and cast in

bronze, is approximately 4.40 meters tall. Based on discussions and interviews with archeologists from the Archeological Museum of Aruba, Abath created a column, a symbiosis of strength and confidence – symbolic of the banking industry, and represented in archeological elements – as a living testimony of our history.

The art piece integrates Abath's interpretation of a pre-Columbus instrument, the stone hatchet, leaning on a base of massive tree roots whose structure and form is derived from and inspired by the local Fofoti tree.

The hatchet represents the spirit of work and creativity possessed by our island's people; the roots connect the sculpture to its foundation, representing their cultural and historical relations, as they intertwine.

At the base of the sculpture, between the roots, one can observe the shape of an ancient burial urn, as well as a lizard. The hatchet itself, bears various pre-Columbus symbols. Some other recognizable elements are the owl, a frog and one more, which is up to each person to look for and identify in the sculpture.

With this sculpture, Aruba Bank pays tribute to the history, heritage and population of Aruba, its ancestors and its future, in a beautiful interpretation of strength and complexity, while at the same time stimulating and creating an interest for art in the community.

Management and personnel of Aruba Bank invite all clients as well as art and culture lovers to stop by and admire this centerpiece, which enhances the new Aruba Bank branch in Hato.



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Aruba proud of our international Aircraft registrations

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber along with a delegation of the Aruba aviation department visited Dubai and Las Vegas recently. They met with top executives in the field of civil aviation with respect to aircraft registration. They also met with companies interested in establishing relations with Aruba and with those managing private aircrafts.

According to the Minister, the goal of Aruba is to attend to this sector with much speed in view of the possibilities it presents Aruba with respect to the registration of aircrafts. Aruba's name is very much revered in the world of aircraft registration. The Russian President, Putin,

as well as the President of the football team of Chelsea have their aircrafts registered in Aruba. Aruba now has a total of \$7 aircrafts registered here. The government's goal is to have 300 aircraft registrations in the next years.

The trip to Dubai proved that there is much potential out there to achieve our goal. There is a market out there that we must explore, according to the Minister. In the month of December Aruba will be host to a conference for commercial and private aircraft registration. This will open doors for more opportunities for Aruba which the government intends to concentrate on intensively this year.





AIG unveils the new Imagine Aruba calendar 2014



Ministers, Niti and Prakash Gupta, Greg Peterson and foundation staff

ORANJESTAD -- For six consecutive years, AIG Aruba has partnered with noted island nature photographer Greg Peterson to bring forward a message of nature conservation and appreciation for Aruba's avian popu-Yesterday. lation. President Prakash Gupta was joined by the Minister of Education, Family Policy and Adult Education, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications, Energy and Environment, Mike de Meza in unveiling the newest Imagine Aruba calendar for 2014.

The issuance of the calendar also signals the establishment of school programs and the passing of legislature aimed at educating youth and protecting the environment, particularly bird habitats.

Mr. Peterson expressed his gratitude to AIG in helping to bring forth this important message and financing their foundation, Aruba Birdlife C on servation complete informed the gathering that Aruba is home to a recorded 238 species of birds, with two added this

year after being spotted by nature photographer Ross Wauben. (https://www.facebook.com/ArubaFloraFauna)

It is through the efforts of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation foundation that the Shoco, the indigenous version of the American Burrowing Owl, was named Aruba's symbolic bird just over a year ago. They also instigated and conduct the annual bird life census, which involves families across the island in identifying and registering the number of birds within their neighborhoods.

Continued on pg 4



AIG unveils the new Imagine Aruba...

Cont. from pg 3





All the nature oriented groups

This year's featured photos



The Guptas with Minister of Education, Family Policy and Adult Education, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar



Greg Peterson with Minister and nature photographers Michele and Ross

All of these projects, and the calendar, are geared to environmental awareness and preservation. Minister de Meza, as acting Prime Minister in PM Mike Eman's abaffirmed sence. government's commitment to providing concrete support for the foundation's cause. He stated that legislation is already being considered by Parliament, which will strongly regulate illegal dumping and littering. He promised that once passed, they will be aggressively enforced, and anyone despoiling the Aruba landscape will face serious penalties.

In 2013, Parliament already voted to award bird habitats at the California Dunes, parts of Tierra Del Sol, Salina Malmok, Salina Palmbeach, Bubaliplas, Sero Teishi, Spaans Lagoen, Mangel Halto, Rooi Bringamosa, Rooi Taki, Rooi Manoonchi, IBA Reef Islands off Oraniestad, Mangrove areas, Rooi Lamunchi, Salina Savaneta, and the San Nicolas reef islands the same protected status as Arikok National Park.

The twelve bird photographs and cover of the calendar have traditionally been taken by Greg Peterson. This year, however, three photos by Albert Peterson from his "Wild Feathers of Aruba" work are included.

Mr. Gupta expressed that AIG is honored to publish this annual calendar for its clients and the benefit of the foundation, with the hope that it sparks the needed respect for the environment and

local bird habitats. Aside from distribution to all their clients, it will be given to schools and other youth organizations.

The twelve species featured in this year's calendar, in order, from January, are: Osprey, Ruby Topaz Hummingbird, Burrowing Owl, Roseate Spoonbill, White-Dove, tipped Crested Caracara, Crested Bobwhite. Cavenne Tem. American Wigeon, Bare-eyed Pigeon, American Kestrel and the Brown-throated Parakeet. The calendars are also available for sale through the Aruba Birdlife Conservation Foundation, to assist them in their work to protect Aruba's avian population.

Rosalie Klein



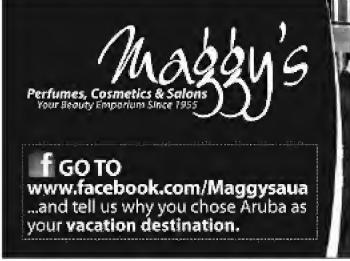


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Dior CHANEL CLARINS GUERLAIN LANCOME JHIZEIDO

Enjoy a winning visit with Santa at Paseo Herencia Mall and join their FB photo contest



are over, there will be a special Grand Prize for the photo that viewers feel had the most appeal, to be awarded in January. Those who have won gift certificates are eligible to win the grand prize if they get the most votes.

So come to Paseo Herencia to enjoy the delightful holiday ambiente, and let your child visit with Santa to receive

some sweet treats. After they pose for a picture with Santa, look for it on our Facebook Page the following Monday, and get out the vote! Santa's last appearance will be on Saturday, December 21.

An evening of holiday shopping at Paseo is fun for all ages! Kids can enjoy bumper boats, the dino jump and carousel, and all the family can

have a night out with dinner at one of our many charming eateries. Dozens of stores offer a fantastic selection of holiday garments and gifts, so you will be fully prepared for the end of the year. Saturday nights are now super special with entertainment and a weekly visit from Santa. Don't miss it, you could be a winner!

By Rosalie Klein



-- Savvy ORANJESTAD shoppers have noticed Santa was doing a bit of gift scouting at Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall this past Saturday, and was delighted to provide photo ops for the children and young at heart. He found the ambiance so pleasant and inviting, he has promised to return every Saturday evening until Christmas, from 7:00 until 8:00 PM, to greet youngsters and pose for pictures.

Paseo Herencia plans to post all these pictures on their

Facebook page and invites those in the shots, or their parents, to share the photos on their timeline, but especially make sure to "LIKE" your picture or that of your child. Make sure to have your family and friends view the photos and also "LIKE" your favorite

Each week, Paseo Herencia will be awarding a substantial gift certificate, to ease the expense of Christmas shopping, to the photo that gets the most "LIKES." After the holidays





Mandela at heart of anti-apartheid struggle, free or behind bars

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) From the launch of the armed struggle to secret talks with the white-minority government, Nelson Mandela was at the forefront of all the major chapters in the anti-apartheid history -- even from behind bars.

Along with Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu, Mandela was part of a triumvirate that oversaw the African National Congress's transformation from banned liberation movement to the natural party in government in Pretona.

His passing Thursday at the age of 95, after the earlier deaths of Tambo and Sisulu, robs the ANC of the last prominent figure whose reputation stems from their role as guerrillas, rather than administrators of the "Rainbow Nation" for which they fought.

Mandela was instrumental in



persuading the ANC to shift from being a mere political party towards adopting armed struggle as an instrument for change.

The creation in 1961 of Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the armed wing of the ANC, constituted a major turning point for an organisation which for half a century was an apostle of non-violence.

"I, who had never been a soldier, who had never fought in battle, who had never fired a gun at an enemy, had been given the task of starting an army," Mandela wrote in his autobiography of his appointment as the overall commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe

It was a position that was to land him before the courts on charges of treason in 1961. And although he was acquitted at his first treason trial, he was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964 following another trial in Rivonia.

He was not to taste freedom for another 27 years later but he was still able to wield considerable influence inside his prison cells.

Mandela was branded a terrorist by the white-minority regime as well as its powerful allies the United States and Britain

During his 18 years on Robben Island, near Cape Town, Prisoner 46664 mediated, counselled and inspired his fellow inmates.

He was kept up to date with events outside thanks to coded conversations with his thenwife, Winnie, and other regular visitors.

When a large number of prisoners arrived on the island following the June 1976 student uprising, Mandela was uplifted by the new "angry revolutionary spirit" which contrasted with the relative passivity of the 1960s.

"The spirit of mass protest that had seemed dormant during the 1960s was crupting in the 1970s," he said.

Even as the apartheid regime stepped up its levels of repression in 1980s, it put out feelers towards Mandela having identified him as a man to do business with

"Although I did not respond to these overtures, the mere fact that they were talking rather than attacking could be seen as a prelude to genuine negotiations... The government was testing the waters," he

The government attempted to use Mandela as an instrument of division within the ANC, with Justice Minister Jimmy Kruger telling him:

"Mandela, we can work with you, but not your colleagues."
Be reasonable "

In January 1985, president P.W. Botha offered him freedom on the condition that he renounce violence but the offer was rejected.

In a speech read out by his daughter Zindzi at the Soweto stadium Mandela hammered out his loyalty to his party.

"What freedom am I being offered while the organisation of the people remains banned?" he demanded.

Set free on February 11, 1990, he devoted the following four years to negotiations, in an often tense atmosphere, ensured that the "South African miracle" took shape and that apartheid was buried for good in the first-ever multiracial elections of 1994 which brought him to power.

Nelson Mandela has died... Continued from pg 1

To them, we owe a debt of gratitude. Our thoughts are with his wife, his former wife, with his children, his grandchildren, his grandchildren and the entire family."

He added that the country's thoughts were also with those who helped Mandela in the struggle against apartheid, his fellow South Africans and his many admirers throughout the world.

"Our thoughts are with the millions of people across the world who embraced Nelson Mandela as their own and who saw his cause as their cause. This is the moment of our deepest sorrow.

Zuma said that Mandela would be accorded a state funeral and that all flags would be lowered to half-mast from December 6 until after the funeral.

Obama: Mandela 'courageous and profoundly good'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - America's first black president Barack Obama Thursday mourned Nelson Mandela as a "profoundly good" man who "took history in his hands and bent the arc of the moral universe towards justice."

Obama -- who met the former South African president briefly only once in 2005, but was inspired to enter politics by the anti-apartheid hero's example -- paid a somber heartfelt tribute within 45 minutes of Mandela's death being announced.

"We will not likely see the like of Nelson Mandela again," Obama said in a televised statement, hailing his political hero for his "fierce dignity and unbending will to sacrifice his own freedom for the freedom of others."

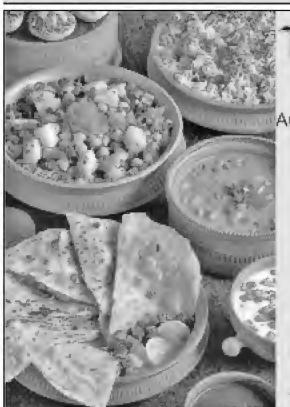
Obama said Mandela, in his journey from a "prisoner to a president," transformed South Africa and "moved all of us."

"He achieved more than could be expected of any man."

"Today he's gone home and we've lost one of the most influential, courageous and profoundly good human beings that any of us will share time with on this Earth.

"He no longer belongs to us; he belongs to the ages."





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American teacher shot dead in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI (AFP) - An American teacher was gunned down in Libya as he took his morning jog Thursday, a week before he was to return home on holiday, officials and the school said.

Ronnie Smith, a 33-year-old from Texas, had been running in the central Al-Fwihet neighbourhood of the eastern city of Benghazi when he was shot, security services spokesman Ibrahim al-Sharaa said

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the killing, which comes 15 months after the US ambassador and three other Americans were killed in an attack on the US consulate in Libya's second city.

International School Benghazi director Adel al-Mansuri said Smith, who was married and the father of a two-yearold boy, had joined the faculty as a chemistry teacher late last year.

Mansuri said Smith had been set to return home next week for the year-end holidays, but it was not immediately clear whether his wife and son were with him.

The director added, without providing details, that another American teacher at the school had been taken to a secure location until he can travel home.

The State Department confirmed that a US citizen had been shot and killed in Benghazi.

International School Benghazi is one of the few foreign schools still operating in Libya, with most having shut down last year and earlier this year because of the growing lack of security.

The violence rocking the city, which was the cradle of the NATO-backed rebellion that ousted Moamer Kadhafi, is largely blamed on jihadist groups that have mushroomed since the veteran was toppled and killed in 2011.

Mexico probes formation of alleged rebel group

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico is probing the alleged creation of a rebel group in the troubled southern state of Guerrero that is calling on people to take up arms against the government, the government said

Hooded men carrying rifles and handguns went before reporters Sunday in an undisclosed location in that state, and announced the creation of a group they called the Revolutionary Armed Forces-People's Liberation, media outlets reported.

A statement issued by the group called President Enrique Pena Nieto's government repressive. Last Sunday he completed his first year in office.

A spokesman for the Mexican attorney general's office said a probe will be launched to determine if such a group actually exists. In its statement, the alleged rebel group accused the government of killing environmental activists, student and rural leaders and other community activists. It demanded the release of detained leaders of self-defense groups in the state saddled with violence.

Guerrero is home to the resort city of Acapulco but is also one of Mexico's poorest and violence-plagued.

Small rebel groups have been active in the state for decades.

In 1996 one emerged that called itself the People's Revolutionary Army and said it followed Marxist ideology. Its last known attack was in 2007 when it blew up several oil pipelines, although no one was killed.

Guerrero is also home to armed self-defense groups and drug cartels.



Mexican family on medical watch over radioactive waste

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexican authorities sought Thursday to safely dispose of radioactive waste that was abandoned on a field and potentially contaminated a family.

Soldiers set up a 500-meter (yard) safety perimeter around the hazardous material after it was found about an hour's drive north of Mexico City on Wednesday, two days after the truck transporting it was stolen.

The radioactive cobalt-60 source, which is considered "extremely dangerous" by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, was originally inside a cancer-treatment device that was on the truck.

The equipment was from a hospital in the northwestern city of Tijuana and was on its way to a radioactive waste disposal facility in central Mexico when it was snatched.

The medical teletherapy device had been inside a steel-reinforced wooden box, but the protective container was opened and the radioactive waste was separated from the equipment in the town of Hueypoxtla, 70 kilometers (43 miles) north of the capital

The dangerous material was found about one kilometer (0.6 miles) from the truck, which the driver said was stolen by two gunmen at a service sta-



tion on Monday.

The National Commission for Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (CNSNS) said a family found the open medical device and brought it inside their home. They were also near the radioactive source.

"We will have to keep this family under medical watch for the sole reason of being near a certain distance from the source," CNSNS operations director Mardonio Jimenez told Milenio television, without specifying how many people were in the family.

Authorities have warned that whoever removed the radioactive material by hand was probably contaminated and could soon die. Authorities are still looking for the thieves.

Jimenez said it would take up to three days to place the source in a safe container and take it to the radioactive waste storage facility where it was originally headed.

The UN agency said that if not securely protected, the material "would be likely to cause permanent injury to a person who handled it or who was otherwise in contact with it for more than a few minutes."

The incident was a reminder of the dangers posed by the huge amounts of nuclear material in hospitals and industry around the world if they are not handled properly and with sufficient security.

In particular, there are fears that extremists could steal the material and put it in a so-called dirty bomb -- an explosive device spreading radioactivity over a wide area and sparking mass panic.

But Mexican officials believe that, in this case, the thieves apparently just wanted the truck, without knowing about its cargo.



Looking away: earliest signs of autism observed

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists said Wednesday they may have found the earliest signs yet of autism in infants -- babies as young as two months starting to evade other people's eyes.

Eye-evasion has long been regarded as a hallmark of autism, but its potential value as an early diagnostic tool had not been explored before, a team of researchers wrote in the journal Nature.

They studied 110 infants from birth until two years, using eye-tracking technology to measure the way they looked at people's faces. Thirteen of the children were later diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"In infants later diagnosed with autism, we see a steady decline in how much they look at mom's eyes throughout the first two years of life, and even within the first six months," study co-author Warren Jones of the Emory University School of Medicine told AFP.

In some children the signs could be observed already



from the age of two months.

Making eye contact is considered an important part of human social interaction and development.

The research team not only uncovered that eye-evasion was present in autistic children already at an early age, but crucially also that eye contact declined over time rather than being absent from the start.

While there is no cure for autism, studies have shown that an early start with behavnoural therapy improves learning, communication and social skills in young children with autism.

The team had used technology to measure eye-movement patterns when they showed the children videos of actors posting as caregivers -- playing games and interacting with them.

They found that infants later diagnosed with ASD showed less and less attention to the actor's eyes over time, a pattern that is not seen in typically-developing infants.

Those whose levels of eye contact diminished most rapidly were also most disabled later in life, the researchers found.

They had used two groups of children: 51 at low risk of developing autism and 59 at high risk -- those with an older sibling already diagnosed.

ASD describes a broad range of impairments in which a person is unable or unwilling to communicate or interact with others, often cripplingly so.

Some patients have delays in cognitive development, whereas others can have dazzling gifts in specific fields such as maths or music. The causes remain unclear.

According to World Health Organisation figures, one child in 160 has an autism spectrum disorder -- considered among the most highly heritable of psychiatric conditions.

The team warned that parents would not be able to observe the decline in eye contact themselves.



S.Africa okays sick notes from traditional healers



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) -South African traditional healers or "sangomas" on Thursday welcomed a watershed court ruling that legally recognises their patient sick notes.

The Supreme Court of Appeal recently upheld a verdict that a Pretona firm wrongfully sacked a chef who took five weeks leave to deal with her tormenting ancestors.

In 2007 Johanna Mmoledi's employers refused to accept a cryptic note from her sangoma diagnosing her with "perminisions (sic) of ancestors."

The 72.000-member Tradi-

tional Healers Organisation welcomed the news.

The court said South Africa was a multi-cultural society where traditional beliefs, social behaviour and other forms of healing should be recognised.

The court cited a disputed World Health Organisation claim that up to 80 percent of South Africans meet their health needs through traditional medicine.

The methods include the use of herbal or animal-based potions, balms, talismans and spiritual therapies.

Afghan Graduates



JALAL-ABAD (AFP) - Newly-graduated Afghan midwives attend a commencement ceremony at the Governor's House in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province on December 5, 2013. Some 40 midwives graduated in the ceremony after undergoing a two and half year midwifery programme.

Hong Kong steps up border health checks over bird flu

HONG KONG (AFP) - Hong Kong authorities have stepped up border health checks after the city reported its first human case of the potentially deadly H7N9 bird flu, officials said Thursday.

Extra health officials have been deployed to carry out random temperature checks at entry points to the southern Chinese city, which already have thermal imaging systems.

The health department has liaised with border officers in the neighbouring mainland China city of Shenzhen to stay alert for travellers and cross-border students with fever or other symptoms, a government

spokesman told AFP

Suspected cases of avian influenza would immediately be referred to public hospitals.

Inspections were being stepped up at all entry points including from Shenzhen.

Hong Kong on Monday announced that a 36-year-old Indonesian helper was its first human case of H7N9.

More than 220 other people are under medical surveillance but not quarantined.

In all, 137 human cases of H7N9 have been reported in mainland China since February with 45 deaths, according to the World Health Organisation



Hopes fade for 41 stranded Florida whales



MIAMI (AFP) - Rescuers in Florida said they faced dwindling odds Thursday of saving 41 stranded pilot whales from the shallow waters of a remote area of Everglades National Park.

With 10 whales already dead, it remains unclear why they got into difficulty in water less than three feet (0.9 meters) deep, in the southern part of the Sunshine state.

Blair Mase, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, said the outlook for a successful rescue mission "does not look good."

Four of the whales had to be euthanized and six others died because of the unexplained beaching off the Gulf Coast.

Linda Friar, a spokeswoman for Everglades National Park, said the location of the beaching was making rescue efforts extremely difficult.

Rescuers began their efforts Tuesday after park rangers were told that four whales were stranded. When teams arrived at the scene they discovered a much larger number.

Everglades National Park provides a unique habitat for a range of species, including crocodiles.

Smiling Pope Francis statue joins Rome wax museum



ROME(AFP) - Pope Francis has become the latest figure in Rome's wax museum with a statue depicting the pontiff smiling in the iconic moment when he appeared on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica after his election. Visitors have been asking for months when the Francis statue would go on display but the museum's director, Fernando Canini, told AFP that he had waited for an official verbal go-ahead from the Vatican. The clay model was made by an artist, Otello Scatolini, who has already done those of famous Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti and rock singer Zucchero. Francis is the sixth pope in the museum, joining John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, John Paul II and Benedict. For all the current pope's wave of popularity, however, he still has some way to go to reach John Paul II -- the late pontiff, who is due to be made a saint next year, has two statues in the museum.



Redfish offers an authentic taste of Arubiana close to low-rise resorts

Our team of taste-testers at THE MORNING NEWS have discovered a surprising island treat within easy reach of the island's principal resort areas. Redfish restaurant, locate within the new Orange Mall, on the Saski highway next to the turn off for the "low rise" resorts, is an authentic "fish shack" with a charming, informal ambiance and al fresco dining.

Merryweather, Herbie founder of the Driftwood in Oranjestad, and owner of the deep sea charter boat of the same name, is a fanatic about fish. If you have that some appreciation for the sweet and singular flavor of fresh Caribbean seafood, than you will be very pleased with a meal at Redfish.

This is casual dining, and you will likely end up eating with your fingers. (They do provide moist towelette packets) The menu is, for the most part, the real deal, fresh grouper, or snapper (Piska Cora in Papiamento, or Redfish) and shrimp. There are chicken and steak dishes to accommodate landlubbers, but make no mistake, you are there for the fish.

Too many restaurants on Aruba have taken to serving frozen farm fish filets, claiming it is grouper or snapper, but you know you are getting fresh, locally caught fish when they are



served in the steaks like they are at Redfish. Delicately coated with a sprinkling of flour and herbs, they are flash fried and the fish is moist and Creole sauce served on the side is one of the best we have ever tasted, and they serve some extra Papaya Pica for those that like to spice it up a bit.

Portions are served by the pound and half pound, with very pleasant and eager to your choice of whatever is fresh that day. We selected a pound of grouper and half PM, Redfish is providing pound of snapper, which were served with an ample supply of traditional island side dishes. and it was more than enough for three hungry people. Combination platters of fish and shrimp, great for nibbling and watching a sporting event on their giant plasma screen, are also available.

The best part? The prices. Geared to a local trade, (and you will find islanders there in force for lunch) a half pound fish platter with sides is incredibly tender. The mild \$10.85: a full pound, meant to be shared by two, with double the side dishes, is \$20. Not only that, but Redfish is an easy, pleasant walk from all the resorts at Manchebo Beach, and the service staff are please.

Open from noon until 10:00 something that has certainly been lacking close to the resort areas, an authentic taste of fresh caught fish, with a distinctive island flavor and am-

Closed on Mondays, they accept cash and travelers checks only. Highly recommended.



Hackers stole 2 million passwords: researchers

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The discovery of some two million stolen online passwords this week prompted fresh warnings from security researchers to strengthen protection from hackers.

US-based security firm Trustwave said it located the stolen credentials on a server in the Netherlands, affecting accounts from Facebook, Google, Yahoo and other major firms.

Trustwave said in a blog post that many of the compromised accounts had weak passwords -- sometimes with fewer than four characters.

Only five percent were rated "excellent" with eight or more characters. And many were easy to guess such as "1234" or "123456."



"Unfortunately, there were more terrible passwords than excellent ones, more bad passwords than good, and the majority, as usual, is somewhere in between in the medium category," the blog post said.

The compromised accounts were linked to a "botnet" called Pony, which infected computers with malware and allowed hackers to remotely access the devices.

Victimized computers were found in some 100 countries, the statement said. "The attack is fairly global and ... at least some of the victims are scattered all over the world."

Independent security researcher Graham Cluley said the incident was a large-scale version of a common type of attack.

"Innocent users' computers have become infected with malware, which grabbed login details as they were entered by users," he said in a blog post.

"This data was then transmitted to the cybercriminals -either so they could access the accounts themselves or (more likely) sell on the details to other online criminals."

Serge Malenkovich of the security firm Kaspersky said cybercriminals can also steal credentials from people who check their emails or Facebook accounts from a public computer.

"As password theft happens more often, this habit has become even more dangerous, especially if you consider that your daily routine now includes persistent access to financial transactions -- from classical online banking to fund transfers using Gmail attachments. That's why a seeminnocent ingly Twitter password theft might eventually lead to the loss of real money."

US tech sanctions hurt democracy activists: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) Broad US sanctions aimed at
keeping certain technologies
out of the hands of repressive
regimes can often backfire by
hurting democracy movements, a think tank report said

The New America Foundation study said US sanctions policies "remain largely outdated in recognizing how communications technology can benefit both the civilian population and serve broader American foreign policy goals."

It added that the broad-brush sanctions "often have negative consequences on the populations in sanctioned countries, inadvertently aiding the repressive regimes that seek to control access to information within their borders."

The researchers urged a move to "smart sanctions" which could deny targeted governments the ability to monitor and silence opposition movements, while allowing more access to personal communications tools.

The report examined sanctions on Iran, Syna, Sudan, Suba and North Korea, where US companies are barred from selling many types of telecommunications equipment.

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NSA tracks mobile phone locations worldwide: report

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The National Security Agency is collecting some 5 billion records a day on the location of mobile phones around the world, The Washington Post reported, citing documents from US intelligence leaker Edward Snowden.

The information is added to a gigantic database that shows the locations of "at least hundreds of millions of cell phones" worldwide, a stunning revelation that suggests the eavesdropping agency has created a mass surveillance tool, according to the Post report.

The report comes six months since the first bombshell leaks from Snowden, a former information technology subcontractor for the NSA who says he spilled secrets to spark public debate on the agency's widespread surveillance activities.

Snowden faces espionage charges but has fled to Russia, where he has been granted asylum.

Of the NSA surveillance programs revealed to date, including spying on foreign leaders and the collection of Internet "meta-data," the geolocation project appears to represent the agency's largest in scale and scope.

The NSA declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

The data is scooped up by tapping into cables that link mobile phone networks -- both American and foreign -- across the globe, the Post said.

The location data is gathered with the help of ten "sigads" or signals intelligence activity designators.

In an example given by the Post, one sigad called "STORMBREW" collects data from two unnamed corporate firms which administer interception equipment. Then "NSA asks nicely for tasking/updates," according to leaked documents.

Information from the cell phones of Americans traveling abroad also forms part of the database.

Because mobile phones broadcast their locations even when there is no call made or text sent, NSA analysts are able to use mathematical techniques to comb through location data and track patterns of movement over time for a given suspect, it said.

The analytic methods used by the agency to sift through location data are known as CO-TRAVELER, according to the report.

Although the vast majority

of mobile phone users are of no interest to the spy agency, the NSA gathers the bulk data to try to track known "intelligence targets" and their unknown associates, the paper said.

Even the use of disposable cell phones that users switch on and off to make only brief calls in the hopes of avoiding authorities trigger note in the system.

According to the Post, CO-TRAVELER combs for new devices connecting to a cell tower after another cell phone is used for the last time.

The NSA insists it does not intentionally track the location data of Americans, but it ends up receiving details that show the whereabouts of domestic mobile devices "incidentally," wrote the Post, which also quoted intelligence officials.



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Fast-food workers across US push for higher wages

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Fast-food workers across the United States launched daylong strikes Thursday to push for what they called a "surviving" wage.

The strikes affected chains such as McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts and played out across a wide swathe of American cities, from New York and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Charleston, South Carolina.

Organizers said strike lines were planned in 100 cities coast-to-coast.

The workers seek a pay hike to \$15 an hour whereas fast-food jobs typically are paid the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

"I'm struggling and I'm still dependent on government assistance to help take care of me and my family," said Shementia Butler, 33, who works at McDonald's in Washington and has two children.

Thursday's strikes come on the heels of previous demonstrations at the end of 2012 and last August urging higher wages at fast-food chains.

Labor organizers also coordinated "Black Friday" protests last Friday in Chicago, Dallas and other cities to push for higher pay at Wal-Mart Stores on one of the most important shopping days of the year.

Protesters Thursday urged President Barack Obama and Congress to act.

The National Restaurant Association rated Thursday's events as "a coordinated PR campaign engineered by national labor groups" in which the "vast majority" of participants are "paid demonstrators" and not real restaurant workers, said Scott DeFife, a vice president for the group.

Dutch, Czechs least at risk of poverty and exclusion in Europe

THE HAGUE - More people may be classed as poor in the Netherlands but in European terms, the Dutch have the lowest risk of living in poverty and social exclusion, figures from European statistics office Eurostat show.

The figures show almost one in four people in Europe were at risk of living in poverty and isolation last year, a marginal rise on 2011.

The highest risk was in Bul-

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer BRAG HATS IOTA GUSHES DOER INTENT BAA OBOE

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garia (49%), Romania (42%) and Latvia (38%). The Netherlands and Czech Republic had the lowest risk at 15%, followed by Finland on 17%.

Dutch figures published earlier this week showed at least 1.2 million people were living in poverty in the Netherlands last year, a rise of over 150,000 on 2011.

Research by the national statistics office CBS and the government's socio-cultural think-tank SCP, shows 7.6% of the population is now living below the poverty line. Last year's rise is the sharpest since the economic crisis began in 2008.

The SCP puts the poverty line at €1,040 a month for single people and €1,430 for a couple. A couple with two children is classed as poor if their gross income is less than €1,960 – or €24,000 per year. Eurostat uses a complicated calculation based on 60% of the median wage in the country concerned.

US stocks fall as strong GDP report boosts taper talk

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks Thursday declined again after a surprisingly good report on US economic growth in the raised expectations the Federal Reserve will hasten a plan to scale back aggressive monetary stimulus.

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 68.65 (0.43 percent) at 15,821.12.

The broad-based S&P 500 fell 7.74 (0.43 percent) to 1,785.07, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index dipped 4.84 (0.12 percent) to 4,033.16.

The Dow and S&P 500 have now declined the last five days.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank, said the losses were unusual for December, which is usually a good month for the stock market.

"The market is taking good news as bad news," Ablin said. "Investors are fearful of Fed policy and are shifting their beliefs on the timing of tapering."

Thursday's declines came after the Commerce Department reported the US economy grew at speedy 3.6 percent in the third quarter, far above the 3.0 percent many

analysts had expected.

Ablin said the GDP data was the latest US economic report to best expectations, raising speculation that Friday's jobs report will also surprise to the upside and thereby boost taper talk even more.

OIL:

US oil futures prices rose Thursday, extending a winning streak to five days, after betterthan-expected data on US economic growth and unemployment, while Brent dipped. New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for delivery in January, rose 18 cents to settle at \$97.38 a harrel

In London trade, the European benchmark, Brent North Sea crude for January, finished at \$110.98 a barrel, down 90 cents from Wednesday's close.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Wednesday agreed to keep its production ceiling unchanged at 30 million barrels a day.



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Deutsche Post tests drone delivery

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BERLIN (AFP) - Just like Amazon, Germany's Deutsche Post-DHL is also testing mini-drones as a way to deliver packages across the skies to your doorstep, the group said on Thursday. Online retail giant Amazon sparked a marketing frenzy Monday in announcing a project to use flying objects more associated with warfare to deliver packages, maintaining it could be



NOK

up and running within five years. But Deutsche Post said Thursday it too has a project that predates Amazon's, though the scheme is in its early stages. "This is only a beginning," a Deutsche Post spokeswoman said, with the focus for now on using drones for home delivery of medicine. Amazon on Sunday posted a video on its website showing a prototype. The body of the device is about the size of a flat-screen TV with eight small helicopter rotors lifting it in the air. "I know this looks like science fiction. It's not," Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos told US broadcaster CBS when revealing the project. US media reported that delivery giant UPS is also researching drone home delivery.

PICKLES







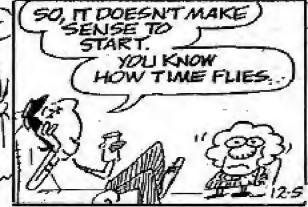


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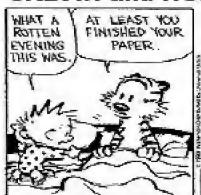
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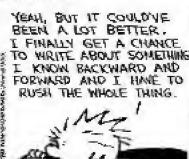
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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

-- A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course,

the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2

eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from Sam until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, pala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English waywith vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas, The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www. goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Football: The format for the 2014 World Cup draw



COSTA DO SAUIPE (AFP) - A look at the format for the 2014 World Cup draw to be made Today.

Pot 1: (8 seeded teams): Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Uruguay, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Switzerland

Pot 2: (7 teams): Algeria, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Chile, Ecuador

Pot 3: (8 teams): Australia, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, United States

Pot 4 (9 teams): Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, England, France, Greece, Holland, Italy, Portugal, Russia

Format

The draw will produce eight groups of four teams (A to H) for the first round group phase.

Each group will consist of one

team from each pot.

To draw a team from Pot 4
(the only one with nine teams)
and place that nation in Pot 2
to ensure each pot has eight
teams each.

The teams in Pot 1 will be placed automatically in position 1 for the groups in which they are drawn. According to FIFA, Brazil will automatically be placed in position 1 in Group A. The position of the other teams in the groups be classified 2, 3, 4 according to the draw.

Step 2: Pot 2 will feature teams from three confederations (Africa, South America and Europe). FIFA wants to separate as far as possible teams from the same continent, though with 13 European sides that will not be entirely possible.

FIFA have therefore warned that during the draw, it could occur that a group will be skipped in order for example of having Chile or Ecuador from Pot 2 drawn in the same group as a seeded South American team from Pot 1.

To avoid a group with three European teams, the UEFA representative randomly drawn into Pot 2 cannot be placed in the group including the four seeded European teams from Pot 1.

At the beginning of the draw, there will be a Pot X with the four South American seeded teams. One of these teams will be drawn into the group in which the European nation from Pot 2 will enter.

This European team will join this group and the other teams from Pot 2 will complete Groups A to H. At the conclusion there will be five groups out of the eight which will include two European teams.

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BRIEFS:



ROME (AFP) - Italian cyclist Danilo Di Luca was on Thursday banned for life after testing positive for the banned blood booster erythropoietin (EPO) before this year's Tour of Italy. The punishment was meted out by the Italian Olympic Committee (Coni). Di Luca, 37, failed the control in an out of competition test on April 29, forcing him to quit the Giro d'Italia. The Italian has already served two bans for doping incidents in the past, including a positive test for EPO in 2009. As well as the life ban, Di Luca was also fined 35,000 euros - his results since mid-April have been erased from the record books.



MADRID (AFP) - Jose Maria del Nido, president of Sevilla football club, has been sentenced to seven years in prison for embezzlement and breaching the course of justice, the club said on Thursday. A lawyer by trade, Del Nido was accused of charging the local authority in Marbella millions of euros for work that was either unnecessary or never even carried out between 1999 and 2003.



KANSAS CITY (AFP) - The Kansas City Royals acquired three-time Japanese batting champion Norichika Aoki from the Milwaukee Brewers on Thursday in exchange for left-handed pitcher Will Smith. Aoki, 31, batted .286 with eight home runs, 37 runs batted in and 20 stolen bases for the Brewers in 2013. He ranked second in the majors with 40 infield hits and led the National League in singles with 140. He also hit .339 against left-handed pitching -- the best average among left-handed hitters in Major League Baseball.

Football: No guarantee Messi will be fit for January - Martino

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona coach Gerardo Martino has said he can't guarantee that World Player of the Year Lionel Messi will be fit to feature when his side return to action after the Spanish winter break in January.

Messi was ruled out for the rest of the year after tearing his hamstring last month and in his absence Barca have suffered two consecutive defeats for the first time since March

The Catalans' unbeaten start to their La Liga campaign was ended by a 1-0 defeat to Athletic Bilbao last weekend just five days after Martino had tasted defeat for the first time as Barca boss in a 2-1 reverse away to Ajax.

Messi is currently back in Argentina continuing his recovery and is expected to return to Barcelona at the beginning of January.

However, Martino refused to confirm that his compatriot would definitely be fit for a return to action at the start of 2014 with Barca set to visit joint La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid on January 12.

Despite still leading La Liga, and having already qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League, Martino and his players have come in for some severe criticism from local media due to their backto-back defeats.

However, he is hoping that the critics will force a response from his players when they travel to face third-tier Cartagena in the first-leg of their Copa del Rey tie on Friday.





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NBA: Korver equals NBA mark with 3-pointer in 89th game in a row

ATLANTA (AFP) - Atlanta Hawks guard Kyle Korver matched the NBA all-time record for consecutive games with a 3-point basket at 89 by hitting one Wednesday against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Just 30 seconds into the game, the 32-year-old American sharpshooter took a pass from Jeff Teague and sank a shot from beyond the arc, the Hawks' first shot of the night, to match the mark set by Dana Barros from 1994 to 1996.

Korver had missed the Hawks' past four games over the past week with a bruised

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rib. Sitting out did not halt the streak, but playing and not connecting on a 3-pointer would have done so.

Korver, who began his streak November 4 of last year against the Oklahoma City Thunder, can claim the record

alone on Friday when the Hawks play host to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

In his 11th NBA season, Koiver has a career average of 42.1 percent from 3-point range. Before Wednesday, he had made half of his 76 3-point attempts this season.

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NBA: Spurs-Twolves game in Mexico cancelled by smoke



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The NBA cancelled a rare game in Mexico City between the San Antonio Spurs and Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday after smoke from a generator malfunction engulfed the arena, forcing players to evacuate.

Players abandoned their warm-up and exited the 22,000-capacity Arena Ciudad de Mexico about an hour before tip-off as smoke entered the facility.

The game, which would have given Mexicans a rare chance to see big-name NBA players such as Spurs guard Tony Parker and regional star Manu Ginobili of Argentina, will now take place in Minnesota, the NBA said.

It would have been just the second NBA regular season game in Mexico after the Dallas Mavericks played the Houston Rockets there in 1997.

The NBA initially announced a delay to the 8:30 pm game as arena officials scram-

bled to vent the smoke out of the court and repair the power glitch.

But the players eventually boarded their buses and left as fans stood outside the arena.

An NBA official told AFP that the teams could not wait long because they had planned to return to the United States late Wednesday after the game.

The \$300 million arena opened in February 2012 and its website boasts that it is the "most important, comfortable, modern and safe facility" in Latin America.

The NBA has played 19 preseason games in Mexico -more than any other country
outside the United States and
Canada.

The Spurs are first in the Western Conference's southwest division with 15 wins and three losses. The Timberwolves are in fourth place in the conference's northwest division with nine victories and 10 defeats.



Pius X School is Football Champion for girls



Pius X School Champion



Laura Wernet Paskel 2nd place



Mon Plaisir School 3rd place

ORANJESTAD - IBISA is continuing its school sports in the football discipline. Football competition for girls took place between Basic Schools with the winning schools confronting the other in the national final to see who will win the championship title.

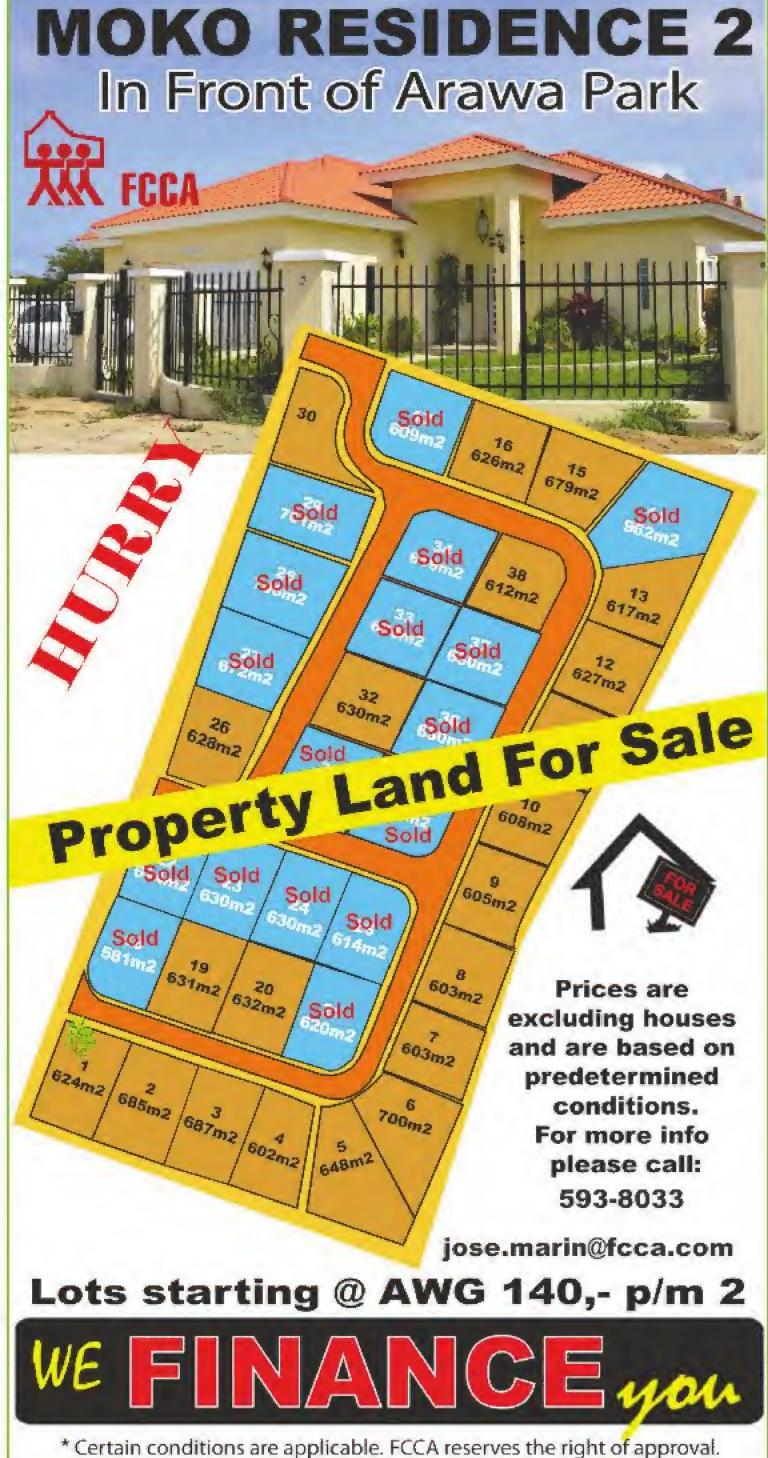
Two pouls were formed. Schools in the poule were A: School Basico Washington, Mon Plasir School, Colegio Patooor Kranwinkel and Maria Regina School. They al confronted Mon Plasir and School Basico Washington who classified for the final round.

In the B poule we had: St. Anna School, Pius X School, Collegio Laura Wernet Paskel and St. Paulus Schol. Schools to pass on to the final were Pius X School and Colegio Laura Wernet Paskel.

Final Game Foofball B-Girls:

Last week the girls football game in category B for national final was organized by IbiSA. All games were played at Compleho Deportivo Frans Figaroa in Noord. Mon Plasir School reached the finals in third place and won 3-0 from School Basico Washington.

For the championship title the game was played between Colegio Laura Wernet Paskel and Pius X. Pius X scored a victory of 2-1 in category Bgirls, leaving Colegio Laura Wernet Paskel behind.



Football: India to host 2017 Under-17 World Cup - FIFA COSTA DO SAUIPE (AFP) - FIFA president Sepp Blatter confirmed Thursday that India will host the Under-17 World Cup in 2017. Eight venues have been shortlisted to be pared down to six -- Goa, Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Cochin, Kolkata, Delhi and Guwahati. The news was greeted with elation among Indian officials. "This is historic, this is what we have been waiting for," said Praful Patel, president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF). "FiFA has been extremely supportive of All India Football Federation's ambitions and taking Indian Football to the world level," said Patel. In all, 24 teams will take part. China hosted the first U-17 event in 1985.Nigeria's Golden Eaglets are defending champions after winning the last event in the United Arab Emirates last month. Chile will be the next hosts in 2015.